

Remarks

In response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

In the present application, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, and 10 have been amended. Independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 10 have been amended to specify that when an audio message related to caller identification information associated with a call is played, the caller identification information, including a directory number, is displayed on a caller identification device. In addition, independent claim 8 and dependent claim 4 have been amended to specify that the audio message which is related to the caller identification information, is played over a speaker connected to the caller identification device. Support for these amendments may be found in Fig. 1 and on page 12, lines 2-9 in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latter et al. ("Latter," U.S. Patent 6,332,021) in view of Pelletier et al. ("Pelletier," U.S. Patent 6,347,136).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Latter in view of Pelletier. Latter discloses a system for "providing caller identification information to a called party when standard Caller ID cannot be provided." Emphasis supplied. Latter teaches that calls for which standard caller identification information is blocked, unavailable, or incomplete, are prevented from being connected to the called party. Instead (upon approval of the called party), audible caller identification information is transmitted to the called party. See Abstract and Col. 2, lines 22-33.

Pelletier discloses a system for providing an announcement and message delivery service via a telecommunications network. As taught by Pelletier, the announcements and messages may include "information of interest" to a subscriber such as weather, financial data, sporting event results, etc. See Col. 2, lines 42-47. The information of interest may be communicated to a subscriber's caller ID unit in lieu of standard caller ID information. Optionally, the caller ID unit may be a speech synthesizer unit to audibly output the received subscriber information. See Col. 9, lines 25-35 and Col. 10, lines 1-8.

Neither Latter nor Pelletier, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest synthesizing and playing an audio message related to caller identification information and displaying the caller identification information, including a directory number, on a caller identification device, as specified in amended independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 10. As discussed above, Latter teaches providing audio caller identification information only when standard caller identification is unavailable. Thus, if standard caller identification information is available to a called party, no audio message is played. Pelletier teaches either, the visual or audio presentation of subscriber information of interest (i.e., non-standard caller identification information) in lieu of standard caller identification information. Neither reference teaches both the audio presentation and visual display of caller identification information including directory information (e.g., the name and/or telephone number of the calling party). Moreover, it would not have been obvious, at the time of the present invention, to modify the system of Latter with the system of Pelletier to disclose the present invention as embodied in claims 1, 5, 8, and 10 since such a modification would (in addition to not teaching all of the specified claim recitations) render Latter unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. The purpose of the Latter system is to provide standard caller identification information to a subscriber (e.g., the name or company of the calling party) via an audible message when standard caller identification information is

unable to be displayed on a caller identification device. Pelletier specifically teaches away from providing standard caller identification information and instead teaches providing other information of interest to a subscriber (e.g., sports scores) in lieu of the standard caller identification information.

Since neither Latter nor Pelletier, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest the recitations specified in amended independent claim 1, claim 1 is indeed patentable and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Claims 2-4 depend independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional recitations set forth therein. Therefore, the rejections of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should also be withdrawn.

Regarding amended independent claims 5, 8, and 10, these claims require specify similar features as amended independent claim 1 and are thus allowable for the same reasons discussed for claim 1 above. Therefore, the rejection of claims 5, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Claims 6-7 and claim 9 depend from independent claims 5 and 8, respectively, and thus are allowable for at least the reasons stated above as well as the additional recitations set forth therein. Therefore, the rejections of claims 6-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should also be withdrawn

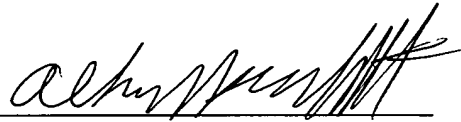
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

The Applicant believes that no extension of time is required; however, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that the Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a further additional extension of time. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of the application, please charge deposit account number 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

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